

## ACTIONS FOR THE REFORM OF ARIZONA'S CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

### Actions Requiring Legislative Change

#### **Special Session**

Require Joint Investigations by CPS and Law Enforcement of Felony Child Abuse and Neglect

Require Referral of Criminal Child Abuse Cases to County Attorney for Prosecution and Review of those Cases within 90 days

Amend Definition of Child Protective Services

Establish Alcohol and Drug Abuse As a Factor in Determining Child Abuse/Neglect and Develop Medical Protocols to Identify Substance Exposed Newborns

Clarify Legal Standards for Substantiating Abuse/Neglect and Allow Central Registry to be Checked for Employment Purposes

Rewrite Confidentiality Laws To Allow Information to be Shared With Those Having A Legitimate Interest

Create Alternatives to Formal Dependency Process that Require Families to Participate in Services

Expand Open Hearing Pilot to Rural Locations

#### **Regular Session**

Amend Education Laws to Meet Needs of Children in the CPS System

### Actions Requiring Funding

#### **Special Session**

Require CPS to Investigate all Reports of Abuse and Neglect

Reduce CPS Caseloads

Ensure Appropriate Classification and Support of CPS Case Managers

Increase Reimbursement Rates for Foster Parents

#### **Regular Session**

Expand Healthy Families Arizona

### Actions Requiring Executive Direction

Co-locate Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health, and Domestic Violence Professionals in CPS Offices

Expand Use of Child Advocacy Centers

Require Use of Risk Assessment Tool by CPS

Standardize the Reporting Process for Mandatory Reporters

Develop a Model for Addressing Issues of Safety, Poverty and Economic Security for all Children and Families

Support Interventions for Older Children

Inventory Prevention Programs to Identify Unmet Need and Strengthen Existing Services

Ensure Immediate Behavioral Health Assessments of Children Who Have Been Removed from their Homes

Ensure Immediate Delivery of Health Care and Behavioral Health Care to Children Involved with CPS

Ensure Delivery of Substance Abuse Services

Maximize Federal Funds and Apply for all Available Grants

Manage DES to Improve Access to All Services

Create Community Network Teams to Provide for Appropriate Services in Local Communities

Provide Supportive Services to Retain a Professional Workforce

Expand Training Opportunities for Case Managers and Supervisors

Retain Quality Foster Families and Recruit More Families

Develop Intensive Family Reunification Services

Create Mentoring Program for Foster Youth Transitioning into Adulthood

Stabilize Placements and Enhance Support Systems to Maintain Permanent Homes

Respect Kinship Placements and Involve Them More in Decision Making

### Actions Requiring Community Involvement

Organize a State Foster Youth Advisory Board

Appoint an Implementation Advisory Committee

Expand Role of Community Volunteers, Including Faith-Based Organizations

Partner with National Organizations

Support Consumer Involvement in Design and Oversight of the CPS System

Support Process for Continued Public Input

Improve Public Awareness and Education about CPS

Keep Public Informed of Status of Reform Efforts

